UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1994/1286
12 November 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 12 NOVEMBER 1994 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to submit to you herewith a letter from my Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mate Granić addressed to you.

May I ask for your kind assistance in distributing this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladimir DROBNJAK
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Letter dated 12 November 1994 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to my letter dated 9 November 1994 and addressed to you as the President of the Security Council - as well as the letter by the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations, Mr. Vladimir Drobnjak, of 11 November 1994 - I would like to use this opportunity to inform you that the situation in the United Nations Protected Areas, particularly in the Sector South and North, and the situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in general, has in the meantime deteriorated to such an extent that it not only causes a grave concern but demands urgent and decisive action on the part of the Security Council, as well as other international institutions and forums.

The situation in the Bihać area is becoming extremely dramatic. The city of Bihać, declared an exclusion zone and safe area by the Security Council, has been under severe and constant attacks from at least five directions. In my letter of 9 November 1994 I informed you that, according to our intelligence, some 2,500 members of the Serbian paramilitary forces from the UNPAs had crossed the border with the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and engaged in the offensive operations against the combined forces of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the HVO. The Serbian artillery has been heavily used and air attacks have been launched on Bihać from the occupied territory of Croatia.

In his letter addressed to the President of the Republic of Croatia, dated 12 November 1994, the Chairman of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina strongly complains against the 10-day offensive against the Bihać exclusion zone "mostly being conducted from the direction of Croatia, that is, the UNPAs on your territory". Mr. Alija Izetbegović has informed the Croatian Government as well that "new forces are being amassed and mobilized in the UNPAs with the aim of undertaking an immediate offensive on the cities of Bihać and Velika Kladuša from several directions". On top of that, the President of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Krešimir Zubak, in a separate letter has informed us of the fact that some 8,000 soldiers from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as the UNPAs, are taking part in "combined and joint operations" and protested because the territory of the "sovereign and independent Republic of Croatia is being used for flagrant violations of all the existing United Nations resolutions concerning the UNPAs, with the aim of undertaking an aggression against the other sovereign and independent State, Bosnia and Herzegovina".

Both leaders and high officials of Bosnia and Herzegovina strongly demand that, in accordance with international law and without any further delay, the Republic of Croatia "undertakes all necessary measures in order to prevent attacks against Bosnia and Herzegovina being conducted from your territory". Furthermore, Mr. Zubak demands that "in this dramatic situation, Croatia's Government spares no effort and help the Federation in stopping the Serbian aggressor before it achieves its goals".

In the light of all recent developments on the ground, as well as the public pronouncements and policy declarations by the highest officials in Belgrade and Knin, these Serbian goals and aims become extremely obvious:

(i) The expulsion of all the non-Serbian population from the Bihać and Velika Kladuša area through the infamous practice of ethnic cleansing;

(ii) The integration of the occupied territories of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina with the final aim of their being fully integrated into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia/Montenegro), thus creating "the Greater Serbia".

However, the most immediate aim of these operations is to engage not only the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also the Croatian Army into large-scale conflicts and fighting. Such conflicts would gravely jeopardize the peace process and undermine all the efforts on the part of the international community, particularly the Security Council. Furthermore, a new round of war and violence would destabilize the Governments of both Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. For example, if the international community - namely UNPROFOR and NATO - fail to stop the ongoing Serbian offensive in the safe area of Bihać, Croatia would be faced with yet another flood of 150,000 to 200,000 refugees, while Bosnia and Herzegovina would lose the equal number of citizens in an area not only located between the two countries, but crucial to their present relations, survival and future existence.

Already heavily burdened with about 400,000 refugees and the displaced, Croatia could under no circumstances be able to cope with another huge influx of refugees. If forced to leave their homes, such a mass of people would put added pressure on all neighbouring countries, thus further undermining the regional security and stability.

I firmly believe, Your Excellency, that the situation in the area certainly warrants decisive and immediate action by the Security Council, UNPROFOR and NATO.

My Government requests that the Security Council, at an emergency session, review the overall situation in the area, and specific demands elaborated in the letter of Croatia's representative to the United Nations dated 11 November 1994 - most specifically, the extension of the exclusion zone regime on some of the occupied parts of Croatian territory, engagement of NATO forces in the occupied territories and the airspace of Croatia whenever the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly resolutions are being violated.

Due to the urgency of the situation, as well as the restrictions imposed on Croatia, we are finding it extremely difficult to abide by the UNPA regime and the Zagreb Cease-fire Agreement and, at the same time, fulfil our usual legal obligations towards a neighbouring country, Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as those arising from some mutually binding bilateral agreements, including the Washington Accords of 18 March 1994. We thus hope that the Security Council will act decisively and aid Croatia in fulfilling its legal obligations towards a neighbour. Furthermore, such a timely action would preserve the ongoing peace

process and prevent further dramatic escalation of hostilities and overall deterioration of the regional security.

(Signed) Mate GRANIĆ